

REMARKS

In the Official Action mailed **November 26, 2002**, the Examiner reviewed claims 1, 3-11, 13-21 and 23-30. Claims 1, 3-11, 13-21 and 23-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maier et al. (USPN 5,625,815, hereinafter "Maier") in view of Park et al. (USPN 6, 064,951, hereinafter "Park").

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Dependent claims 6, 16, and 26 were rejected as being unpatentable over Maier.

Applicant respectfully points out that Maier teaches a transaction manager that creates **audit entries for each transaction** (see Maier, col. 4, lines 7-12). In contrast, the present invention discloses creating an **audit record only if auditing is enabled** (see page 7, line 26 to page 8, line 2 of the instant application). Creating an audit record only if auditing is enabled is advantageous because it prevents the system from creating an audit record in cases where sensitive data is not accessed, thereby saving space in the audit trail.

Applicant notes that the Examiner references Maier, col. 8, lines 24-29 in rejecting claims 6, 16, and 26. However, col. 8, lines 24-29 do not teach creating an audit record only if auditing is enabled. These lines teach continuing to create audit records for each transaction by an end user during a "move partition" procedure. An on-line search of Maier does not reveal any location within Maier that teaches creating an audit record only if auditing is enabled.

Accordingly, Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 11, and 21 to include the limitations of dependent claims 6, 16, and 26, respectively. Additionally, Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 11, and 21 to clarify that the audit record is created only for rows that are actually accessed by the query. Dependent claims 6, 16, and 26 have been cancelled without prejudice. Dependent claims 7, 17, and 27 have been amended to correct antecedent basis. Dependent claims 2, 12, and 22 were previously cancelled without prejudice.

Hence, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 11, and 21 as presently amended are in condition for allowance. Applicant also submits that claims 3-5 and 7-10, which depend upon claim 1, claims 13-15 and claims 17-20,

which depend upon claim 11, and claims 23-25 and 27-30, which depend upon claim 21 are for the same reasons in condition for allowance and for reasons of the unique combinations recited in such claims.

Version with marking to show changes made

The Claims:

1 1. (Twice Amended) A method for selectively auditing accesses to a
2 relational database system, comprising:
3 receiving a query from a client at a database server that processes queries
4 for the relational database system;
5 automatically modifying the query prior to processing the query, so that
6 processing the query causes an audit record to be created and recorded for rows in
7 relational tables that are accessed by the query and that satisfy an auditing
8 condition;
9 processing the query at the database server to produce a query result;
10 creating the audit record only for rows in relational tables that are actually
11 accessed by the query and that satisfy the auditing condition, wherein creating the
12 audit record includes:
13 determining if auditing is enabled,
14 creating the audit record if auditing is enabled, and;
15 recording the audit record in an audit record store; and
16 returning the query result to the client.

1 7. (Once Amended) The method of claim 6~~1~~, wherein auditing is enabled on
2 a table by table basis.

1 11. (Twice Amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing
2 instructions that when executed by a computer cause the computer to perform a
3 method for selectively auditing accesses to a relational database system, the method
4 comprising:
5 receiving a query from a client at a database server that processes queries
6 for the relational database system;
7 automatically modifying the query prior to processing the query, so that
8 processing the query causes an audit record to be created and recorded for rows in

9 relational tables that are accessed by the query and that satisfy an auditing
10 condition;
11 processing the query at the database server to produce a query result;
12 creating the audit record only for rows in relational tables that are actually
13 accessed by the query and that satisfy the auditing condition, wherein creating the
14 audit record includes:
15 determining if auditing is enabled,
16 creating the audit record if auditing is enabled, and;
17 recording the audit record in an audit record store; and
18 returning the query result to the client.

1 17. (Once Amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim
2 ~~16~~11, wherein auditing is enabled on a table by table basis.

1 21. (Twice Amended) An apparatus that selectively audits accesses to a
2 relational database system, comprising:
3 a database server;
4 a receiving mechanism, at the database server, that is configured to receive
5 a query from a client;
6 a query modification mechanism that is configured to modify the query
7 prior to processing the query, so that processing the query causes an audit record to
8 be created and recorded for rows in relational tables that are accessed by the query
9 and that satisfy an auditing condition;
10 a query processor that is configured to process the query at the database
11 server to produce a query result;
12 an auditing mechanism that is configured to,
13 create the audit record only for rows in relational tables that
14 are actually accessed by the query and that satisfy the auditing
15 condition, wherein creating the audit record includes:
16 determining if auditing is enabled,
17 creating the audit record if auditing is enabled, and to

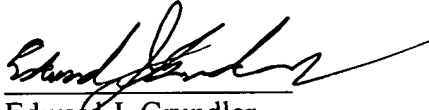
18 recording the audit record in an audit record store;
19 and
20 a returning mechanism that returns the query result to the client.

1 27. (Once Amended) The apparatus of claim ~~26~~21, wherein the auditing
2 mechanism is configured to enable auditing on a table by table basis.

CONCLUSION

Please enter this amendment into record rather than the amendment filed on January 23, 2003. It is submitted that the application is presently in form for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: February 18, 2003

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